

## **OHA Advisory Committee Meeting**

**April 15, 2014**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm

Attendees: V. Veltri (OHA), M. Smith (OHA), S. Karp, D. Berlyn, M. DeWaele, Bill Sweeney

Absent: K. Stover, G. Collins, Demian Fontanella (OHA), Laura Morris (OHA)

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda -Agenda Approved. There was discussion to amend the agenda to discuss approval of the meeting summary from the 1/21/14 Advisory committee meeting. The committee and OHA staff agreed that minutes should be approved moving forward and bylaws would be developed.
2. Administration Report
  - a. Budget - Vicki reported that Appropriations Committee budget adds two positions to Governor's budget for a BH clearinghouse to assist people in finding providers. No discussion.
  - b. Insurance Department - Vicki reported on a referral to CID for a potential mental health parity issue on the ConnectiCare exchange plans re plan description that requires that outpatient MH/SU benefits require Prior authorization. Vicki suggested that it might be an error in the plan documents, but CID is investigating. Vicki also reported that CID is negotiating an MOU with OSC for MEHIP external appeals. OHA has had two MEHIP cases in which an external appeal was not available.
  - c. Personnel – Vicki reported that two nurse consultant vacancies will be posted in a few days. Vicki reported that Sheila Cox is leaving and Valerie Wyzykowski is taking over the DCF project, leaving a vacancy at her position that needs to be filled. Vicki also reported on discussions with DSS on ombudsman grant for Medicare-Medicaid eligibles.
  - d. SIM Report – Deferred because Mark Schaefer was unavailable. Vicki described that SIM Project Management Office (PMO) is being housed at OHA for administrative purposes only with a direct report to the Lt. Governor. OHA retains its independence as a watchdog entity. Discussion on general SIM development followed.
  - e. Access Health CT – Vicki reported on NIPA program success and the feedback from the community on the importance of the program. Vicki also reported on a meeting in Oakland on 4/10/14, at which she and Kate Gervais reported on the success of the program on reaching diverse populations. Vicki reported on the video that OHA produced on the program. The video is available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azhO\\_nCchrw&list=UUR6NNUuralVJEbPtxJehPdg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azhO_nCchrw&list=UUR6NNUuralVJEbPtxJehPdg). Vicki also reported that she is in discussions with state agencies and others to continue this vital program which also allows OHA to reach more deeply into communities. Some discussion followed.
3. Consumer Relations Report - Maureen reported that OHA logged 2,597 cases in the first quarter of 2014, nearly half of the total cases that OHA logged for all of CY 2013. Maureen reported on the types of calls that OHA is getting from Access Health CT and DSS customers. Vicki reported that staff was working extra hours in the morning and the evening to keep up with calls. Vicki reported on how hard the staff is working.

4. Legal/Legislative Report – Vicki reported on several pieces of legislation that OHA supported this year, in addition to the budget. OHA supported the clearinghouse bill, a fix to PA 13-3 that OHA negotiated last year with the carriers and bills on network adequacy, facility fees, hospital conversions and other insurance, public health and human services bills. Vicki reported that the BH taskforce just completed its work. A placeholder bill was passed out of committee, but Vicki reported that she is unsure whether the recommendations will be included in a bill this session. Vicki promised to ask Demian to send a copy of his legislative summary to the committee for review. Some discussion followed.

5. Other Business - Vicki reported on a successful outreach at the request of Mark DeWaele in New Canaan with brokers on small businesses and health reform. Mark expressed his thanks for outreach.

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Next meeting - July 15, 2014 at noon.